

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) **Permits are required for Hazmat properties in the Louisville Fire District (Urban Services). How do I determine if my property is that fire district?**

If you are unsure, find out how to determine if your property is in the Louisville Fire District here:

[Find my Fire District](#)

- 2) **I don't have any hazardous materials. What do I do?**

Are you sure? Check the list of chemical categories. Check with your tenants, maintenance workers, or building managers to make sure there are no compressed gases, hazardous cleaning materials or solvents, or other dangerous materials stored on the property. Any dangerous materials ***that meet the permit quantities*** listed in the tables will require a Permit.

DO NOT report small quantities of common office or building supplies such as White Out, glue sticks, window cleaner, janitorial supplies, leftover house paint or a few aerosol cans.

- 3) **I checked the list, and I really don't have any hazardous materials. What do I do?**

Please complete the application by providing contact information and an updated floor plan, if available. Such information is always of value to responding firefighters. **You will not be charged a fee unless you have hazardous materials at or above the thresholds.**

- 4) **I have some material, but don't know which category it fits in. What do I do?**

Consult the SDS for guidance, or the supplier of the material.

- 5) **I have a material which seems to fit more than one category, what should I call it?**

Use the category that *best describes the hazard* presented by the material. For example, Sulfuric Acid is corrosive, but also reacts with water so is it a "Corrosive Liquid" or a "Water-reactive Liquid"? In this example the corrosive effects of coming into contact with sulfuric acid outweigh the water-reactive aspects.

- 6) **Is propane measured by pounds, cubic feet of gas, or gallons of liquid?**

For permit threshold purposes, propane is measured by the *aggregate* quantity using the "water capacity". If you have enough to require a permit, propane is considered a gas, so you must use the total cubic feet in order to determine the level of permit needed.

- 7) **What is "Water Capacity"? How does that relate to pounds or cubic feet of propane?**

The water capacity of a cylinder or tank is the quantity of water, measured in pounds or gallons, that the cylinder or tank will hold. This measurement is marked on all cylinders and tanks of propane. For example, if a cylinder of propane for a forklift is marked 'WC 80', its water capacity is 80 pounds of water. Water weighs 8.33 pounds per gallon, so the equivalent gallon capacity is 9.6 gallons (80 pounds divided by 8.33 pounds/gallon).

Multiplying 9.6 gallons by 13 cylinders of forklift fuel, you get 124.8 gallons total. This is less than 125 gallons aggregate, so no permit is needed until you have 14 or more cylinders of propane forklift fuel. Remember, it's the *aggregate* quantity that determines the permit threshold.

If a tank of propane is marked 125 gallons or more, then it meets the threshold. When reporting the cubic feet of propane, use the actual amount of propane in the tank when it's full. Since propane tanks are only filled to 80% capacity, the actual amount of propane is 100 gallons, not 125.

Propane will yield 8.66 cubic feet per pound or 36.38 cubic feet per gallon. Multiply the total pounds or gallons of propane on site by the appropriate factor to determine the total cubic feet.

8) What does "aggregate" mean?

The aggregate quantity of a given material refers to the *total* quantity of materials, not in any one individual tank or container, but *all* storage vessels combined.

9) I have a cryogenic liquid that is above the threshold quantity. Why do I pay a fee based on the Cubic Feet of Gas?

Although cryogenic liquids are measured as liquids for threshold limits, the material in its natural state is a gas, and if released from its container will return to its gaseous state.

10) How is ammonia categorized?

Ammonia is considered a corrosive gas and is measured by cubic feet.

11) Dry cleaning fluid is in which category?

Tetrachloroethylene, also called perchloroethylene, or PERC, is a toxic liquid. Other dry-cleaning fluids may be Class II combustible liquids. Refer to the SDS for the material in question.

12) Fuel oil used in connection with oil-burning equipment is exempt. What is an example of an exemption?

Fuel tanks of Diesel or Kerosene *that are connected to oil-burning equipment* such as a back-up generator or a boiler are exempt. *Dispensing or transferring* fuel oil is NOT exempt.

13) What is the difference between consumer fireworks, display fireworks, and pyrotechnic articles?

Consumer fireworks are small fireworks offered for sale to the general public. (Note: not all consumer fireworks are legal in Louisville Metro/Jefferson County.) Display fireworks are larger pieces, used by professional event companies to put on fireworks shows. They require a license from ATF. Pyrotechnic articles are similar to consumer fireworks, but are used mainly by professionals in stage or film work. They are classified by DOT as 1.4 explosives, similar to consumer fireworks.

14) I still need assistance, what do I do?

Please direct questions to firehazmatpermits@louisvilleky.gov

